

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE BILL NO. 280

BY SENATOR MURRAY

JUDGES. Extends the term of the judge of Division D of New Orleans Traffic Court, then abolishes Division D, followed by Division A. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 13:2501.1(B) and (C), relative to the Traffic Court of New Orleans; to provide relative to the terms of office of certain judges of the traffic court; to reduce the number of judges and sections of the traffic court from four to three effective January 1, 2018, and from three to two effective January 1, 2021; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 13:2501.1(B) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§2501.1. Traffic Court of New Orleans

* * *

B.(1) Until January 1, 2018, the The Traffic Court of New Orleans shall consist of four judges, comprising Divisions A, B, C, and D. Judges elected to those divisions shall be elected by the qualified voters of Orleans Parish. One judge shall be elected to and shall preside over Division A. One judge shall be elected to and shall preside over Division B. One judge shall be elected to and shall preside over Division C. One judge shall be elected to and shall preside over Division D. Each

1 such judge shall be not less than thirty years of age, a qualified elector of the parish
2 of Orleans, and an attorney at law who has practiced in Louisiana for at least five
3 years preceding his election.

4 (2) Beginning January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2020, the Traffic
5 Court of New Orleans shall consist of three judges, comprising Divisions A, B,
6 and C. Judges elected to those divisions shall be elected by the qualified voters
7 of Orleans Parish. One judge shall be elected to and shall preside over Division
8 A. One judge shall be elected to and shall preside over Division B. One judge
9 shall be elected to and shall preside over Division C. Each such judge shall be
10 not less than thirty years of age, a qualified elector of the parish of Orleans, and
11 an attorney at law who has practiced in Louisiana for at least five years
12 preceding his election.

13 (3) Beginning January 1, 2021, the Traffic Court of New Orleans shall
14 consist of two judges, comprising Divisions B and C. Judges elected to those
15 divisions shall be elected by the qualified voters of Orleans Parish. One judge
16 shall be elected to and shall preside over Division B. One judge shall be elected
17 to and shall preside over Division C. Each such judge shall be not less than
18 thirty years of age, a qualified elector of the parish of Orleans, and an attorney
19 at law who has practiced in Louisiana for at least five years preceding his
20 election.

21 C. The judges in office on September 12, 1975, shall continue in office until
22 the expiration of their terms. Thereafter, the successors of each shall be elected at the
23 congressional election preceding the expiration of the term and for terms of eight
24 years. Their successors shall take office on the first day of January following their
25 election, and every eight years thereafter, except that the term of office of a judge
26 presiding over Division D that ends prior to December 31, 2017, is hereby
27 extended through December 31, 2017.

28 * * *

29 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not

1 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
2 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
3 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
4 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alden A. Clement, Jr.

DIGEST

Present law provides that the Traffic Court of New Orleans consists of four judges, comprising Divisions A, B, C, and D. Present law further provides that judges elected to those divisions are to be elected by the qualified voters of Orleans Parish, one judge to be elected and to preside over each division. Present law further provides that each traffic court judge must be at least 30 years of age, a qualified elector of the parish of Orleans, and an attorney at law who has practiced in Louisiana for at least five years preceding his election.

Proposed law provides that beginning January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2020, the Traffic Court of New Orleans will consist of three judges comprising Divisions A, B, and C. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law further provides that beginning January 1, 2021, the Traffic Court of New Orleans will consist of two judges comprising Divisions B and C. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that judges of the Traffic Court of New Orleans who are in office on September 12, 1975, are to continue in office until the expiration of their terms. Present law further provides that after the expiration of those terms, the successors of each judge are to be elected at the congressional election preceding the expiration of the term and for terms of eight years, and will take office on the first day of January following their election, and every eight years thereafter.

Proposed law provides that the term of office of a judge presiding over Division D of the traffic court whose term ends prior to December 31, 2017, is extended until December 31, 2017. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 13:2501.1(B) and (C))